

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 714

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to birth records of certain adopted children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 192.008, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) If an adult adoptee who does not know the identity of one or both parents listed on the person's original birth certificate applies for access to the person's original birth certificate, the state registrar shall perform a search of reasonably available death records to determine if each parent named on the original birth certificate whose identity is unknown to the adoptee is deceased. Upon confirmation that each parent named on the original birth certificate whose identity is unknown to the adoptee is deceased, the registrar shall provide to the person a noncertified copy of the person's original birth certificate without a court order.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to an application for an original birth certificate filed on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the suit for adoption was filed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act. An application for an original birth certificate filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.